Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4213

UNCLAS CANBERRA 7120

PASS FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, SWEL, TBIO, AS

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL FOOD LABELING SURVEY

REF: A) CANBERRA 05698; B) STATE 178135

- 1. AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED IN PARA 4, REF B:
- 2. QUANTITATIVE DECLARATION OF THE CARBOHYDRATE CONTENT OF FOODS IS CURRENTLY NOT REQUIRED BY NH&MRC APPROVED FOOD STANDARD NOR IS IT REQUIRED BY STATE FOOD LEGISLATION TO MY KNOWLEDGE. HOWEVER RECENT PROPOSALS FOR THE LABELLING OF FOODS FOR SPECIFIC DIETARY USES INCLUDES NUTRITIONAL LABELLING OF FAT, CARBOHYDRATE AND PROTEIN CONTENT EXPRESSED AS GRAMS PER 100 GRAMS OF FOOD.
- 3. DECLARATION OF THE CARBOHYDRATE CONTENT IN RELATIVE PROPORTION TO OTHER INGREDIENTS IS REQUIRED BY RECENTLY APPROVED INGREDIENT LABELLING PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO PACKAGED FOODS. THESE REQUIRE THAT IF SUGAR OR OTHER CARBOHYDRATES ARE PRESENT IN INGREDIENTS THAT THEY BE DECLARED AND RANKED IN DESCENDING ORDER OF RELATIVE PROPORTION.

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- 4. HEALTH CLAIMS ARE NOT PERMITTED BY NH&MRC STANDARDS EXCEPT STATEMENTS OF FACT SUCH AS "NO ADDED SUGAR", "UNSWEETENED" ETC. THESE TERMS ARE QUALIFIED BY AN UPPER JOULE OR CALORIE LIMIT.
- 5. OTHER MACRO-NUTRIENTS ARE ALSO COVERED BY INGREDIENT LABELLING BUT NOT AS A QUANTITATIVE DECLARATION EXCEPT IN

THE CASE OF FOODS FOR SPECIFIC DIETARY USES.

6. COPY OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S RESPONSE WITH ENCLOSURES REGARDING STANDARD FOR LABELLING BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSMITTAL TO FDA.
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